

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Telephone Meeting 11:00 a.m.

April 18, 2013 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor Commissioner; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; J Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell, Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine

Others Present: Jim Kramer, Scott Boettcher, Lisa Broadt, John Lucas, Melissa Kuehne, Kimberly Pincheira, Lee Napier, Mark Swartout, Chris Hempleman, Julie Balmelli-Powe, John Lucas, Pat Anderson

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from March 21, 2013
- Ruckelshaus Center Midpoint Evaluation
- Education and Outreach Visits

WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 11:02.

2. Introductions

Attendees identified themselves.

3. Update on Governor's Budget and Communication with Legislature

Mr. Kramer stated that the entire \$28.2 million that was requested by former Governor Gregoire had been endorsed by Governor Inslee and was included in both the House and the Senate draft budgets. The final decision will be made at the end of the legislative session.

Mr. Averill commended Senator Braun of the 20th District for supporting the budget. The Senate budget initially reduced the total budget by \$4 million dollars. In the Senate Ways and Means Committee the budget was increased back up to the total \$28.2 with the support of Senators Braun, Hatfield, Sheldon and Hargrove.

4. Ruckelshaus Center Midpoint Evaluation

Mr. Kramer stated that a questionnaire was sent out from the Ruckelshaus Evaluation with the meeting materials. The Ruckelshaus Center would like to evaluate what happened through their process and the role they played over the last 18 months. They would like to know what effect the Center is having on critical issues. Their hope is that questions are forward thinking of what people would like to have accomplished in the future. A student, Melissa Kuehne, will conduct interviews with both the work group and Flood Authority members. She will be contacting the members to set up interview times.

5. Update on Website

Mr. Boettcher has been updating the website and the new tool is more user friendly. There is a separate site for each project that was funded. It is anticipated that the projects in the \$28.2 million budget will have their own dedicated area. Mr. Boettcher encouraged the members to go to the site for recent projects. This is the next area of focus for the Education and Outreach committee. The site is located at: <http://www.ezview.wa.gov>.

Mr. Kramer stated he would like local jurisdictions to reference this address in their websites. Mr. Boettcher stated he would create an icon similar to what he did for the Early Warning System.

Mr. Kramer asked everyone to look at the recent changes and give feedback. This feedback will go to the Education and Outreach Committee for additional changes.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item 1 and 2 were dispensed with since they were part of the work session.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. Approval of March 21 Meeting Notes

Mr. Averill made a motion to approve the meeting notes. Mr. Cook seconded. There were thumbs up to approve.

[NOTE: Mayor Estes informed Ms. Anderson after the meeting that the March 21 minutes needed to be corrected. On page 3, paragraph 7, the dollar amount should have read \$102,000 rather than \$402,000. Ms. Anderson subsequently corrected the minutes].

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Reports

a. Chair's Report

The Chair had no report.

b. Member Reports

Mr. Haberstroh asked if there had been a conversation with the Quinault Indian Nation regarding the Governor's budget. Mr. Kramer stated he has not heard anything. He understood that the QIN was asking for consultation from the Governor's office.

Centralia – Mr. Averill stated China Creek has been a contributor to flooding and was not covered in the US Army Corps of Engineers' Twin Cities Project. The Flood Authority has been looking at this as a potential project and Centralia funded a preliminary study providing alternatives. Centralia is reviewing options. This is a project that is important to Centralia and could be a candidate for State funding in a future biennium.

Lewis County – Commissioner Fund stated there are three more Education and Outreach meetings if anyone wants to attend.

Bucoda – Mr. Vanell thanked the Education and Outreach Committee for going to Bucoda and presenting for the town council.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no report. Mr. Kramer stated that Travis Nelson has taken a position with Pierce County and will no longer be the contact person for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Flood Authority will be notified when his position has been filled.

7. Financial Report

There was no Financial Report as Donna Olson is still out on sick leave. Pat Anderson reported that the only expenses for April were Mr. Boettcher's and Mr. Kramer's budget items.

8. Confirm next regular meeting

The next meeting will be on May 16 at the Thurston County Courthouse. Projects in the design stage should be reported in May with alternatives. Mr. Boettcher is working with the project sponsors and the state agencies regarding permitting issues. That will be the focus of the next meeting.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated that the work group is working with OFM to prepare an RFP (Request for Proposal) that will go out before the Legislature finishes its session, with an understanding that any proposal from a firm considering responding is contingent on the passage of the budget. If a jurisdiction has a project it is not too soon to put together an RFP or have discussions that would be needed to get a head start on it. There is an extreme likelihood that the budget will pass.

Mr. Kramer stated the RFP will come out from OFM in late April for the consultant work on feasibility studies.

Mr. John Lucas thanked Mt. Boettcher and Commissioner Fund for offering to do the outreach presentation for the Farm Bureau. He stated this is a good thing that is being done and his group is looking forward to the presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 p.m.